

Call for applications
LGBT Home Care Access Project
Advisory Committee

Are you an LGBT person living in Ontario who:

- i) receives home care services?
- ii) is in need of home care services but can't get them?
- iii) has organized home care services for yourself outside the public system?

OR

Are you someone who provides or organizes home care services for LGBT people living in Ontario?

We are looking for LGBT community members and home care service providers who are interested in improving home care services for LGBT people in Ontario to be part of our Advisory Committee.

Background to our research

It is well known that members of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) communities experience unique barriers to receiving services. We know very little about how our communities experience home care services, or about how service providers' understand the unique needs of LGBT people. The purpose of our research study is to understand the experiences of LGBT people who use home care in Ontario so that we can improve access and quality of care for all our communities.

Goals of our research

- Understand community home care from the perspectives of LGBT users in Ontario.
- Understand community home care from the perspectives of service providers in Ontario.
- Enhance community home care delivery for LGBT people in Ontario.

Our research plan

Our research will be carried out over the next 3 years (2011-2014).

We will be recruiting a variety of people, including LGBT home care users and service providers, to participate in interviews, focus groups, and/or online surveys.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking

- ✓ **LGBT Community Members:** people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or trans who have had experience with the home care system in Ontario,

AND

- ✓ **Home Care Service Providers:** people who work in home care (nurses, personal support workers, care coordinators, social workers, and occupational therapists) or with LGBT people in a health or social service setting.

Diversity in background and experience is important to us – please let us know if you are:

- A person of colour/racialized community member
- An immigrant/refugee
- A person for whom English is an extra language
- An Aboriginal person
- A Two-Spirited person
- A person living with (dis)abilities
- A person with experience in psychiatric systems and/or who identifies as an ex-patient/consumer/survivor
- A person living outside of the GTA (especially, in rural and/or Northern Ontario)

Role of Advisory Committee members

As a member of the AC you would help us ensure that our research benefits both our communities and home care providers. The AC will be an avenue for sharing and exchanging perspectives and expertise – as a member, you would contribute to all stages of the research process. The AC will include about 10 members: 5 from LGBT communities, and 5 from various home care service provider sectors.

Participation in the AC will involve attending 1-2 in-person day or half-day meetings per year. We will schedule meeting times that can accommodate the majority of our members. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered. If attending a meeting in person is not possible, participation via teleconference would also be an option. Additional teleconference meetings may be considered to address unanticipated issues.

At the AC meetings, we will:

- Discuss our progress on the research.
- Request your feedback on all stages of the research process, including recruitment strategies, questionnaires, and interview and focus group questions.
- Share our research findings, and ask for your feedback about what these could mean.
- Request your feedback on the best ways to share our findings with our communities.
- Plan next steps, such as advocacy or policy changes, based on our research findings.
- Any other topics and/or issues, as they arise.

An honorarium will be provided for LGBT community members.

How to apply

Please prepare a 1-page letter that answers these 3 questions:

- Why do you want to join the Advisory Committee for the LGBT Home Care Access Project?
- What personal and professional skills would you bring to our project?
- In what ways would your background and experiences contribute to our project?

Please email us your letter, along with a brief resume, by Tuesday, January 3, 2012 to: lgbthome@yorku.ca. For more information, please contact: Melissa St. Pierre, Research Coordinator at lgbthome@yorku.ca

Home Care Access Project Collaborators

Andrea Daley and Judith MacDonnell (York University), Rainbow Health Ontario, Toronto
Central Community Care Access Centre.

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